

THE PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
CHAMBER CHOIR

*Hodie!  
Contemporary  
Christmas Carols*

CONVIVUM  
RECORDS

# Hodie!

This recording brings together a compelling selection of contemporary Christmas carols and arrangements, a snapshot of a rich and exciting repertoire of Christmas music. Four of these pieces were commissioned in recent years for the annual Portsmouth Grammar School Christmas Carol Service: Archer's *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*, L'Estrange's *Hodie!*, Rodney-Bennett's *Coventry Carol* and O'Regan's *Ecce Puer*.

The school has developed a national reputation for commissioning new works by contemporary composers, including Roxanna Panufnik, Richard Rodney-Bennett, Tarik O'Regan, Alexander L'Estrange, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Stephen Montague, Malcolm Archer and Tansy Davies. Many of these works have been commissioned for the school's annual Remembrance Concert, alongside Associate Musicians the London Mozart Players. In November 2014, the Remembrance Concert will feature a substantial new commission written by international award-winning composer Jonathan Dove. This piece, written to commemorate the centenary of the Great War, will include children from local primary schools and will receive its second performance, also with the PGS Chamber Choir, in Croydon's Fairfield Halls in the same month.

Commissioning new works has provided pupils with the opportunity to work alongside leading contemporary composers and conductors, both as performers and as composers through workshops and composition projects. These new works can also be the catalyst for working alongside musicians from across the city, particularly through the annual arts festival, the Portsmouth Festivities. In June 2013, Alexander L'Estrange's *Ahoy!*, written to commemorate the opening of the Mary Rose Museum, was performed by the PGS Chamber Choir alongside 300 singers from local schools and choirs and, in June 2014, instrumentalists from the PGS Chamber Orchestra performed in an imaginative reworking of Mozart's symphonies in *Mozart Remixed* by former PGS pupil Chris Bartholomew.



*The Portsmouth Grammar School*

## *Chamber Choir*

The PGS Chamber Choir is the school's premier vocal ensemble, consisting of pupils from year 9 to the Upper Sixth. Within the ranks of the choir are members of national and regional ensembles, school music scholars, diploma holders, and national competition winners. Several members of the choir also sing with the Cathedral Choir and Cantate, the Cathedral Youth Choir, with which the school has a strong relationship.

The Chamber Choir plays an important part in the rich and varied musical life of the school. As one of over 45 different ensembles rehearsing every week, they take part in some of the 60 concerts put on by the school each year. Each year, they perform a major choral work at the school's Gala Concert, accompanied by an orchestra of the school's most advanced musicians, and sing evensong annually at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. They also sing at school services, perform regularly in the local community and in June 2014 joined the Cathedral Choirs in BBC Radio and Television broadcasts as part of the national D-Day commemorations.

A highlight in the school calendar is the annual Remembrance Concert, first held in St Thomas's Cathedral in 1997. In 2013 the Chamber Choir performed Britten's War Requiem alongside the Portsmouth Choral Union and Southern Pro Musica, soloists Elizabeth Meister, James Oxley and Duncan Rock. In 2001, the London Mozart Players became the school's Associate Musicians and as part of this Associateship, the PGS Chamber Choir and LMP have an ongoing programme of commissions by leading contemporary composers. The most recent, *Song of Names* by Roxanna Panufnik, was conducted by internationally renowned conductor Nicholas Cleobury and featured the PGS Chamber Choir alongside the Portsmouth Cathedral Choristers, the LMP and Covent Garden baritone Nigel Cliffe. Librettist and music critic Norman Lebrecht praised the "ferocious energy" of the performance, writing that "Every consonant and crotchet was emitted as if it were a matter of life and death. And when the big tune came into play for the first time, every hair in the cathedral must have stood on end."

Musical Director

# Sam Gladstone

Director of Music at The Portsmouth Grammar School. Formerly Organ Scholar at Peterborough Cathedral, Sam studied music at Cambridge University, graduating with a double first and several college prizes. As Organ Scholar at Jesus College Cambridge he accompanied the Chapel choirs on tour, BBC broadcasts and CD recordings. He was also the founder-conductor of the Jesus College Chamber Orchestra and played for services with the King's College Mixed Choir, King's Voices.

Sam was, for five years, Deputy Master of Music at the Chapels Royal, Her Majesty's Tower of London. He performed with and directed the professional choir at concerts, services, broadcasts and state occasions. During this time, he was Organist in Residence at Bradfield College and studied for a PGCE at the Institute of Education (University of London), going on to teach

music at Whitgift School in Croydon. Prior to moving to Portsmouth in January 2012, Sam was Assistant Director of Music at Sevenoaks School. At Sevenoaks, he founded the Sevenoaks Chamber Choir, taking them on tour three times to France and Spain. As well as having responsibility for the Lower School Curriculum, he coached several Chamber Groups to the semi-finals and finals of the Pro Corda National Chamber Music Festival, and conducted the 200-strong combined choral society and parents' choir alongside professional ensembles Fine Arts Brass and Voces8.

At The Portsmouth Grammar School, alongside leading the vibrant and busy music programme at the school, Sam has been Music Director for The Producers and Mack and Mabel at the King's Theatre, Southsea, and directed school ensembles in world premieres, collaborations with professional soloists, and concerts in venues throughout Portsmouth and further afield.

Organ/Piano

# Oliver Hancock

*Sub-Organist at Portsmouth Cathedral and School Organist at The Portsmouth Grammar School.*

Oliver was Organ Scholar at Jesus College, Oxford, and was one of the first students to take the MMus in Choral Studies degree at the University of Cambridge in 2010. From 2008 to 2012, he was Assistant Organist to Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir, where he accompanied regular cathedral services and helped to train the girl choristers. He accompanied ECGC on their first tour to Paris in 2010 and for their fifth-anniversary broadcast of *Choral Evensong* on BBC Radio 3 in 2011, and in 2012 accompanied ECGC for their CD *Penitence & Redemption* (Regent Records). For the academic year 2011-12, Oliver was also Graduate Organ Scholar at Selwyn College, Cambridge, recording a CD of music

by Alan Bullard – *Wondrous Cross* (Regent Records) – and undertaking a tour of the East coast of the USA, where venues included St Thomas 5th Avenue and the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York, and the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

At Portsmouth Cathedral, Oliver accompanies daily services and works with the boy and girl choristers, regularly conducting the choirs in services and concerts as well as outreach work across the diocese. In July 2013, he directed the girl choristers and scholars on tour in Malta and Gozo, which included a concert as part of the 'Victoria International Arts Festival' at St George's Basilica, Gozo. Oliver is a member of the Portsmouth RSCM Committee,

and has run a number of RSCM events in the area. At PGS, he is responsible for Theory and Aural Skills tuition, as well as teaching A-Level harmony and counterpoint. He accompanies all major School services and takes part in many concerts throughout the year (variously as accompanist, director, and singer).

As well as the USA, Oliver has toured much of mainland Europe, both as conductor and accompanist, has broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and 4, and has performed as an accompanist and as a singer on various CD recordings. His organ teachers have included John Wellingham, Mark Wardell, David Sanger, and William Whitehead. Oliver is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



*Horn*

# Lucy Claire Brown

Lucy was inspired to become a professional horn player during her time in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, after which she attended The Royal College of Music as a Foundation Scholar on the BMus Course. Here, she studied with Nigel Black, Simon Rayner and Julian Baker and later attended Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance as a TCL Scholar on the MMus course. She is also an Associate and Licentiate of Trinity College London.

During her time at RCM, Lucy worked alongside Sue Dent as a horn mentor in the Junior Department

on a scheme sponsored by EMI which led her to meet HRH Prince of Wales and talk to him about the project. Other projects included BBC Prom workshops and Summer Sparks workshops. Lucy then went on to work at Wells Cathedral School as a Graduate Music Assistant for two years. Whilst at the school, she coached various brass ensembles and also taught mini horn. During her time in Wells, Lucy joined Mid Somerset Orchestra as their Principal Horn.

Lucy loves teaching and performing, and enjoys the freedom and versatility of a freelance career. As well as playing in orchestras and

chamber groups, that have taken her to venues in Europe and America including The Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall, Alice Tully Hall Lincoln Centre, Rudolfinum and the Olympic Village, Lucy has recorded music for film and has played at many festivals, including Secret Garden Party, Bestival and Latitude as part of the alternative progressive marching band Perhaps Contraption.

Lucy currently teaches brass and theory at the London College of Music Junior Department and works for several music services as well as teaching privately.



# Ding Dong! Merrily On High

16TH CENTURY FRENCH  
ARR. MACK WILBERG (b. 1955)

*Organ part by Peter Stevens*

*Text: G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)*

Ding dong! merrily on high  
In heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "io, io, io,"  
By priest and people sung.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

# Away In A Manger

*Soprano Solo* Melissa Talbot

***Melody & Text:***

***WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK (1838-1921)***

ARR. DAVID HILL (b. 1957)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

# Ecce Puer

TARIK O'REGAN (b. 1978)

*Text: James Joyce (1882-1941)*

*Commissioned by*

*The Portsmouth Grammar School*

Of the dark past  
A child is born;  
With joy and grief  
My heart is torn.

Calm in his cradle  
The living lies.  
May love and mercy  
Unclose his eyes!

Young life is breathed  
On the glass;  
The world that was not  
Comes to pass.

A child is sleeping:  
An old man gone.  
O, father forsaken,  
Forgive your son!

# Sussex Carol

*Melody & Text:*

TRAD. ENGLISH ARR. PHILIP LEDGER  
(1937-2012)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring -  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen!"

# Sing Lullaby

*Soprano Solo* Phoebe Pexton

TRAD. BASQUE ARR. DAVID HILL (b. 1957)  
*Text: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby!  
Hush! Do not wake the infant King!  
Angels are watching, stars are shining  
Over the place where he is lying;  
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby!  
Hush! Do not wake the infant King!  
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,  
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping;  
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby, is the Babe a-waking? Sing lullaby!  
Hush! Do not wake the infant King!  
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,  
Conquering death, it's bondage breaking;  
Sing lullaby!

# Lux Aurumque

*Soprano Solo* Rebecca White

ERIC WHITACRE (b. 1970)  
*Text: Edward Esch (b. 1970)*  
*Latin translation by*  
*Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)*

*Lux,*  
*Calida gravisque pura velut aurum*  
*Et canunt angeli molliter*  
*Modo natum.*

Light,  
Warm and heavy as pure gold  
And the angels sing softly  
To the new-born baby.

# No Small Wonder

PAUL EDWARDS (b. 1955)  
*Text: Paul Wigmore (b. 1925)*

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
The angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
But stable and manger for God –  
No small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
The gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;  
But God gives his life on a cross –  
No small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,  
The power, the glory, the light of his face;  
But all to redeem my poor heart –  
No small wonder!

# O Little Town

*Flute Solo* Phoebe Pexton  
*Baritone Solo* William Drakett

BOB CHILCOTT (b. 1955)  
*Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And Peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

# My Lord Has Come

*Music & Text:*  
*WILL TODD (b. 1970)*

Shepherds, called by angels,  
Called by love and angels;  
No place for them but a stable.  
*My Lord has come.*

Sages, searching for stars,  
Searching for love in heaven;  
No place for them but a stable.  
*My Lord has come.*

His Love will hold me,  
His love will cherish me,  
Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,  
Sages and shepherds and angels;  
No place for me but a stable.  
*My Lord has come.*

# In The Bleak Midwinter

*Soprano Solo* Phoebe Carter  
*Tenor Solo* Isaac Waddington

THOMAS HEWITT JONES (b. 1984)  
*Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

# Coventry Carol

*Commissioned by*  
*The Portsmouth Grammar School*

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT (1936-2012)  
*Text: Anon. 16th Century*

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny Child,*  
*By by, lully, lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do,  
For to preserve this day,  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing,  
By by, lully, lullay.

Herod the king, in his raging  
Charged he hath this day,  
His men of might in his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child, for Thee,  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
By by, lully, lullay.



# This Is The Truth Sent From Above

*Soprano Solo* Phoebe Pexton

*Music & Text:* TRAD. HEREFORDSHIRE  
ARR. RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love.  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run,  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear;  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleas'd to hear what he did say.

# Angels, From The Realms Of Glory

*Commissioned by*  
*The Portsmouth Grammar School*

MALCOLM ARCHER (b. 1952)  
*Text: J. Montgomery (1771-1854)*

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
Yonder shines the Infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of Nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star:

Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear;  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear:

# Silent Night

FRANZ GRUBER (1787-1863)  
ARR. BOB CHILCOTT (b. 1955)  
*Text: Josef Mohr (1792-1848)*  
*trans. John F. Young (1820-1885)*

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,  
Holy Infant so tender and mild.

Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds first saw the sight.  
Glories stream from heav'n afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiance beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace.

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

# Wexford Carol

*Horn Solo* Lucy Claire Brown

*Music & Text:* TRAD. IRISH ARR. KEN BERG (b. 1955)

Good people all, this Christmas-tide,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done  
In sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angel said,  
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find, this happy morn,  
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful hearts and joyful mind  
The shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God's angel had foretold,  
They did our Saviour Christ behold.  
Within a manger He was laid  
And by His side a virgin maid,  
Attending on the Lord of Life  
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Good people all, this Christmas morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

# Hodie!

ALEXANDER L'ESTRANGE (b. 1974)

*Text: Antiphon for Magnificat at Vespers, Christmas Day*

*Hodie Christus natus est, Alleluia,  
Salvator apparuit, Alleluia,  
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,  
Laetantur archangeli, Alleluia,  
Hodie exultant justi, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Alleluia!*

Today Christ was born, Alleluia,  
A saviour has appeared, Alleluia,  
Today the angels sing on earth,  
The archangels rejoice, Alleluia,  
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory be to God on high, Alleluia!

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*Jesus College Chapel*  
*Cambridge*

*January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2014*

*With Thanks to*  
*The Master & Fellows of*  
*Jesus College Cambridge*





THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

## Soprano

Julia Alsop  
Phoebe Carter  
Francesca Clayton  
Emma Dorricott  
Joanna Gladstone  
Megan Grady  
Abigail Guy  
Harriet Hammans  
Sarah Heath  
Emily Hill  
Sophie Jenkin  
Gemma Liu  
Alice MacBain  
Tamara Manuel  
Phoebe Pexton  
Emma Read  
Melissa Talbot  
Emily Tandy  
Jessamie Waldon Day  
Rebecca White

## Tenor

Joseph Beard  
Adrian Green  
Theo Hornsey  
Robert Merriam  
William Pepperell  
Alexander Pratley  
Isaac Waddington

# Hodie!

## Director

Sam Gladstone

## Horn

Lucy Claire Brown

## Engineering

Kevin Hodgson

## Mastering

Ada Khan

## Organ/Piano

Oliver Hancock

## Flute

Phoebe Pexton

## Editing

Isa Khan

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Andrew King

## Creative Director

John Bevan

## Executive Producer

Adrian Green

## Alto

Ella Beard  
Alice Bennett  
Guy Billington  
Barnaby Carter  
Jemima Carter  
Lydia Carter  
George Gourlay  
Jason Howard  
Charlotte Nuttall  
Alice Priory  
Charlotte Rowden  
Oliver Saunders  
Adam Southey  
Francesca  
Strongitharm-Cornell  
Lara Wassenberg

## Bass

Finn Carter  
Will Drakett  
William Forrest  
Samuel Gibb  
Alastair Gray  
Tom Harvey  
Christopher Head  
Andrew Johnson  
Tim MacBain  
Peter Norris  
James Phillips  
William Sparkes  
Hugh Summers



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